

Mass Intentions for the Week

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017

5:30 William & Elizabeth Morris
 7:30 Marcella Sweeney
 9:30 David Jenkins
 11:30 Frederick Balagot

Monday, December 4, 2017

7:00 People of Ascension Parish
 8:30 Teresita Villafranca Sy

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
 8:30 Martha G. Wetzel

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
 8:30 Nicholas Delaney & family (L)

Thursday, December 7, 2017

7:00 Teresita Villafranca Sy
 8:30 Ann Btterley

The Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8, 2017

7:00 Gerard Patrick Lee
 8:30 Serina Sharkey, Birthday (L)
 7:30 Peggy Lacey

Saturday, December 9, 2017

8:30 Mario & Rosauro Cajucom
 5:30 People of Ascension Parish

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

7:30 Melvin & Dorothy Evans
 9:30 Rose Marie Piro
 11:30 Peter Buckley, 54th Anniversary

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

Ascension Parish is supported by people who place their faith and trust in God.

November 27, 2016:	\$5,927.00
November 26, 2017:	\$5,430.00
October We Share:	\$2,210.90

Thank you very much for your generosity. You always care for and support our Parish programs, ministries and plant maintenance.

**Readings for Sunday
 December 10, 2017**

**Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8**

Time seems to rule everyone's lives, doesn't it? None of us can live for one day without clocks keeping us in line! We wear wrist watches. Our computers and our cars, our iPads and our iPhones all tell us the time—constantly! A person who does not obey clocks is called unprofessional or unreliable.

But the readings for First Sunday of Advent challenge us to look at time in a different way. From the long-ago past, long before Jesus was born, Isaiah reminds us that the people of God have been waiting. "God, why have you let us wander away from you—you're always catching us doing something wrong, and we feel guilty and tired. Why are you leaving us in this mess?"

Yet, God's people admit, "No ear or eye has ever heard or seen anything like your awesome deeds. We are the clay, but you are the potter!"

This is the basic Advent theme: we are waiting for God's patient love to come again in its fullness, so that all that is broken in this world can be made whole again. But this isn't useless waiting, as if we're at the doctor's office or in the check-out line. This is expectant, eager waiting, the way a woman waits for childbirth.

Something wonderful is going to come of this waiting! Jesus says, "Be watchful! The moment is coming soon!" God is already among us, and yet God is coming—the already, and the not yet.

The time is ripe, so let's wait joyfully!

✠ **Ascension Ministers**—altar servers, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers—please return your Christmas availabilities forms TODAY.

✠ Thank you to our Service Ministry and to all who donated, collected, and delivered 160 turkeys for our **Thanksgiving Turkey Drive**. Also, thank you to all who participated in our **42nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving**. Special thanks to those who participated, especially, to Glenn Gordon and our choir members for leading us in song-filled thanks to God.

✠ Thank you to Brian Driscoll and our friends at **THE BAKERY** in Bergenfield, for their generous donation of bread for our Thanksgiving Day celebration. It is always such a treat!

✠ Please take some time to review the information from last week's bulletin about our **2017 Parish ADVENTure**. Our **Advent Giving Tree** has been prepared to help us to Share the Spirit of Christmas! Further information is in this week's bulletin. Also, don't forget to take a copy of **Five Minutes with the Word for Advent**. Copies are in the book rack at the entrance to the church. These and so many other opportunities help each of us to prepare for the Lord's coming.

✠ This weekend we ask God to bless with security and peace the retired religious sisters, brothers and priests who have built up His kingdom in this local Church and throughout our nation. May God's grace help us to be generous in giving to the **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**.

✠ Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next Saturday, December 9th.

✠ Advent would not be complete without a very special opportunity to "make straight the way of the Lord" in our hearts and in our lives. Please plan to join us on Monday evening, December 11th at 7:30pm, here at Ascension Church for our **Tri-Parish Advent Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confession**. Come and experience this beautiful sacrament as one of God's grace-filled Advent moments. What a treat God has in store for us!

✠ Please remember to make your final payments for the **2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal** in order that our parish may get the proper credit.

Know that I pray for you every day. Please pray for me, too.
 God Love You!

Fr. David

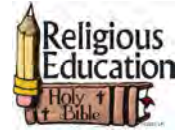


The Visual Arts – Using The Gifts God Has Given Us

My name is Rachelle Chrzan, and I am thrilled to be the art teacher at Transfiguration Academy.



I am blessed to be a part of the Transfiguration community. In the art room, I am passionate about developing the artistic abilities of my students and nurturing their confidence in creative expression. I strive to achieve this by teaching students how to use many art mediums and experiment with techniques through a variety of projects. Students are inspired by art movements and accomplished artists as they learn about their unique artistic styles and find a style that suits them. They are taught responsibility as they learn to take proper care of their supplies and use resources wisely. The ability to think creatively and express ideas effectively is vital to so many aspects of life. Art engages us to grow in our understanding of the human experience and it unites us across languages. It is my goal that students gain a growing appreciation for the arts and find joy in creativity. When we create, we use the gifts God has given each of us and give glory to our Creator, and that is the ultimate goal! I look forward to sharing art with our students at Transfiguration this year. Please feel free to stop by the art room and surrounding hallway to see what our students are working on.



Calendar:

Sunday, December 3rd– Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)
 Monday, December 4th– 8th Grades from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Wednesday, December 6th-- 9th Grades from 7 pm to 8:45 pm (MPR/SCH)
 Sunday, December 10th – Pre- K thru 6th grade from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm (SCH)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass. All children in Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us. What a great way for families to celebrate Mass together.

Reconciliation: Pardon and Peace: This week our parish children, who will soon be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will gather for their final preparation session. They will learn about the meaning of conversion and how a return to God’s love is celebrated in this sacrament. Parishioners are encouraged to reflect on their own experience of conversion or turning back to God. Please pray for the children as they celebrate their First Reconciliation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

7th, 8th and 9th Grades will meet on December 11, 2017 in the school at 7 pm for class and all will be attending the Advent Tri-Parish Penance Service at 7:30 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend. Students will be dismissed from the Church.

Please note the change in our hours for classes this school year.

Our Sunday Mornings program is from **10:45 to 12 Noon**. The 7th and 8th graders meet on Monday evenings and 9th graders on Wednesday from 7 pm to 8:45 pm. Students are asked to be here by **6:55 pm in order to start at 7 pm sharp**.

Reminder:

When your child/ren are going to be absent from class you must call the Religious Education office and let us know. We will call the home is you do not call us, so **PLEASE** make sure you have a working home or cell number that we can contact you especially in the event of an emergency.

Volunteers Needed:

- † We are in NEED of Substitute Catechists and Class Parents for our Religious Education Program for the 2017-2018 School year. Anyone interested, please call Theresa Carbone our Coordinator of Religious Education at (201) 836-3085.
- † Children’s Liturgy of the Word Team member. This is a great opportunity for college students or student teachers to gain experience share their faith and work with students in a relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested please, call the Religious Education office.

Religious Education Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 4 pm – In Rectory
 Monday and Wednesday: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm – In School
 Sunday Mornings: 10 am to 12 Noon – In School
 Closed: Thursday & Saturday
 Other times by appointment

WELCOME: Newcomers, Visitors and Parishioners

The priests & ministers of Ascension Parish welcome you. If you would like more information about entering more fully into our parish life & ministry, we ask that you complete the form below. You may return by putting into collection basket, mail or stop by the rectory office. Thank You!

I would like....

- _____ to become a Parishioner
- _____ to change my address
- _____ to join a ministry
- _____ to let the Parish know of someone who is ill, or homebound & would like to receive Communion

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8th, 2017
Mass Schedule 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm

ADVENT IS COMING!!!

OUR ASCENSION 2017 ADVENTURE...

Advent offers us many opportunities to help us to welcome Christ everyday into our lives. As we welcome and care for one another in many small ways, we will find that Jesus truly becomes flesh in our daily lives.

These are just some of the ways that we can journey together on our **ADVENTURE** at Ascension:

- ✠ **ADVENT CALENDARS** will be distributed next weekend to our parishioners to help offer us opportunities to bring Jesus into our lives more deeply each day of Advent.
- ✠ Our ushers will be distributing **2018 Calendars** after all Masses on this First Sunday of Advent. The calendars have once again been donated by Michael of Boulevard Funeral Home. Thanks, Michael!
- ✠ Our **CHURCH VESTURE IN ADVENT** — the Advent altar cloths, banners, and priest's vestments, Advent Wreath candles, along with our Advent music — remind us that Advent is a time for waiting in joyful expectation for Christ's coming.
- ✠ Our **ADVENT GIVING TREE**, prepared by our parish Service Ministry, will provide us with great opportunities for us to bring the joy of Jesus to the less fortunate.
- ✠ On Friday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. It is a holy day of obligation. We will take up a second collection for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Mass will be celebrated at 7am, 8am and 7:30pm.
- ✠ On Saturday, December 9th after the 5:30pm Vigil Mass we will bless and light the **CHRISTMAS decorations** outside our church to remind us that we await the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. Also, the Christians of the Holy Land will be with us for the weekend offering their olive wood creations.
- ✠ On Monday, December 11th, at 7:00pm here at Ascension, we will celebrate our Tri-Parish **ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** with the sacrament of reconciliation. What better way to prepare our hearts for Christmas!
- ✠ On Wednesday, December 13th, we will celebrate our parish **EUCCHARISTIC DAY** beginning at the 8:30am Mass. We will have adoration all day concluding at 7:30pm with Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction.
- ✠ On Saturday, December 16th we will celebrate **Simbang Gabi** with a joyful Mass at 5:30pm followed by a festive reception in the Fr. Benedict Center.
- ✠ On Thursday, December 21st beginning at 6pm, we will put up the Christmas Trees in the church, and on Friday, December 22nd beginning at 6pm we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. We invite any parishioners who would like to help to join us for these special projects.



Please keep this **ADVENTURE** reminder handy during this season.

Together, may we let Jesus enter our lives!



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PRAY FOR . . .

"To everything there is a season..."

"a time to be healed..."

Dolores Crowley, Ann Wall, Joseph Gorgone, Jim Keane, Marguerite Morris, Don Evans, Donna Van Kleeck, Margaret Polis, Elsa Obera, Marie Oberst, Jean Francisco, Carmelo Abbruzzesi, Leonard Abbruzzesi, Kitty Tricarico, Joan Polis, Thomas Gonzalas, John Thomas, John Donohue, Concepcion Deus, Deacon Jim Stumbar, Eileen Kloebler, Richard Gabettie, Judith & Tom Gonzales, Monica Vivas, Diane Warings, Jane Rodriguez, Herman Ivan Rodriguez, Charles Hellriegel, John Delaney, Anita Zucconi, and those among us who are sick and in need of our prayers.

"a time to serve..."

Cpt. Jack Massingale, U.S. Air Force, Afghanistan, PFC Ian Belthoff, U.S. Marine Corps., Cherry Point, NC, James Penser, Goodfellow, AFB, Texas and all Men and Women serving in our countries Armed Forces.

"a time for peace..."

President Donald John Trump, our National Leaders and all World Leaders.

...and a time for every purpose under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:11



The **SANCTUARY CANDLE** burns this week in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**

BREAD and WINE this week offered in loving memory of **William & Elizabeth Morris**



Altar Flowers for this week are in loving Memory of the **William & Elizabeth Morris**



BLESSING & LIGHTING OF OUR PARISH OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AFTER 5:30pm MASS



First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017

**Religious Retirement Fund
Advent Giving Tree**

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am

Baptism Prep. – 1:00pm – Gathering Room

Monday, December 4, 2017

Pastoral Staff Meeting – 9:00am - Rectory

Religious Education (grade 8) – 7:30pm – School

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Woodcrest Center Mass – 2:30pm

Ministry of Service – 7:00pm – Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Confirmation Prep. – 7:00-8:45pm

Novena – 7:30pm – Church

Boy Scouts – 7:30pm – FBC

Filipino Core Mtg. – 8:00pm – Gathering Room

Combined Choirs – 8:15pm - Church

Pearl Harbor*Thursday, December 7, 2017

No events

Friday, December 8, 2017

The Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: 7:00 & 8:30am & 7:30pm

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Confessions 11:00am – Church

Children's Choir – 4:15pm – Church

Blessing and Lighting of Outside

Christmas Decorations after 5:30pm Mass

Christians of the Holy Land Religious Articles

For Sale in the Gathering Room

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2017

Parish Maintenance & Repairs

Christians of the Holy Land Religious Articles

For Sale in the Gathering Room

Children's Liturgy of the Word – 9:30am

Religious Education Pre-K-6 – 10:45am



**MINISTRY OF SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 7:00PM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM**



TOYS FOR TOTS

Boulevard Funeral Home will be collecting new unwrapped toys this holiday season for Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at 1151 River Road, New Milford from 9-4 daily. All donations will stay local. Please contact 201-692-0100 with any questions.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARISH INFORMATION
WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION.COM**



This weekend we invite you to *Share in the Spirit of Christmas* by participating in our parish's traditional **Giving Tree** outreach program. Besides our own local gift giving to children in the area, we also provide gifts to local nursing homes, homeless shelters, a local shelter for unwanted teenage boys, and to children in communities who would, were it not for our program, receive nothing for Christmas. **Please note that due to the requirements of our charities, and our delivery teams, all gifts will be due back by Sunday, December 17th, after the 11:30 Mass. The only exception will be food certificates donated for distribution to our own pantry clients. Please do not bring in gifts after this time as they may not be delivered to the various charities. It is important you do not take an ornament that cannot be returned on time as this may result in someone not receiving a gift this year. Please also remember to securely attach your ornament to the package so that the gift will go to the correct recipient.**

Details on what each ornament means are in this week's bulletin. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help deliver some of these gifts, please call Joan Stephens @ 201-836-6684. May God continue to bless you for your generous support of this ministry of love and care. ****Please note that unwrapped toys will be given to the Bergen County Sheriff's Department for distribution to local children in need. Please do not wrap these items.**

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR SHELVES STOCKED**

This month we are particularly low in the following items: Flour-Chicken broth-Hair conditioner-Toothpaste-Bath Soap-Deodorant-Razors. May God bless you for your continued support of our most important ministry.

Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal

Thank you to the 186 parishioners who have made a pledge to this year's Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. **We are currently at \$36,094.00** pledged dollars. Please consider making your pledge today. Give a little, give a lot, but please give something for the Glory of God!

This year our Parish Goal is \$43,000.00

SUPPORT ELDERLY RELIGIOUS

Your donation works for aging religious. "I read that roughly 95 percent of donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious aid senior religious," a donor writes. "That's wonderful when we truly want our donations to *work*." Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support this week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.



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They help us GROW.

**Please remember to patronize
who help make this bulletin possible,
REINER*Heating*Air Conditioning
201-794-3700**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas trees, wreaths and flowers which will be used to decorate our church this festive season.

Donation \$15.00 for Each Intention

One intention for each donation will be listed on the Christmas Flower Donations bulletin insert

Please put your donation and intention in the **Christmas Flower Envelope (at doors of church)** or you may use **this form**. Please drop it in the collection basket or in the black mail box outside the rectory door. **Please Print all information clearly.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please Print

In Memory of: _____

or the Intention of: _____

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Please let one our ushers know, prior to Mass, if you would like to bring the Offertory Gifts up to the celebrant. If Mass intention is one that you have requested or if it is for the intention of your loved one.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE SERVICE MINISTRY

The Service Ministry would like to thank all that helped to make this a blessed Thanksgiving holiday for so many families in need. Through our joined efforts we were able to collect just short of 200 turkeys this year!

Thanks also to Fairway Markets in Paramus and Inserra Foods (Shop-Rite) for their donations to our turkey drive.

Thanks also to all the members of Ascension's Service Ministry who braved the wind and the chaos to distribute all these turkeys with their fixings.

God bless all who helped for their continued support of our most important ministry to the poor.

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
REMEMBER TO PURCHASE
RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS STAMPS**

**ANY EASY WAY YOU CAN HELP THOSE IN
NEED – BECOME A VOLUNTEER BAKER!**

Every other month the Service Ministry of Ascension visits the Hackensack shelter to feed dinner to those in need. We always bring with us home-baked goods, which are a big hit with the clients. As we normally feed up to 150 people, we need help from volunteer bakers. All you need to do is to bake a cake, pie, brownies, cupcakes or cookies and drop them off at the rectory by 2 pm on the day of our serving. If a daytime drop is not possible, they can be dropped off the night before. (If you cannot bake, we will also accept store bought goods!)

Our next date is on Thursday, December 14th.